

## Light and Life

## Reliant on God's Mercy

Because “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” we are all totally dependent on God’s mercy (Rm. 3:23). After all, it is God who justifies (v26)!

Some would throw themselves completely at God’s mercy without respect for His holiness and justice. They operate as though their unrighteousness makes God’s righteousness that much more glorious by comparison. God is clear that this is not how that works (3:5-8).

God’s grace does not nullify the effect of continual sin. It provides a way to die **to** our sin through forgiveness, and transfer our loyalties to God as instruments of righteousness (6:1-14). But being reliant on God’s mercy does not mean we can continue to live however we want! Rather, when we recognize the mercy He offers, we must pledge allegiance to Him to receive it (6:15-23).

In the parable of the talents, the one-talent man presented himself as totally dependent on his master’s mercy. “Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours” (Mt. 25:24-25). This servant’s dependence on mercy did him no good because his actions did not demonstrate loyalty to his master! Rather than being profitable to the cause of his master, this servant was described as “wicked and lazy” (v26). And rather than receiving mercy, he was cast into the outer darkness (v30).

Not all who beg for mercy will receive it – and many will beg as they question Jesus’ judgment of their “wicked and lazy” souls (Mt. 7:22). Those who will receive mercy are those whose actions will demonstrate their allegiance to Him – those who do His will (v21).

If we want mercy, we must labor for the Master!

- *Sam Bunyard*

## Another Perspective

## Heart Motives

These were written two millennia ago. ABC multiple choice:

- A. 1st century problem
- B. 21st century problem
- C. Both of the above

- James 3:16 – “But where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.” A, B, C
- Galatians 5:15 – “But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.” A, B, C
- Jude 16 – “These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their own lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of gaining advantage.” A, B, C
- Philippians 1:15 – “Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife; but some from good will; the latter do it out of love... the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than pure motives...” A, B, C
- 1 Peter 2:1 – “Putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and slander...” A, B, C

Observation: Time passes, but human hearts and attitudes haven’t changed since these Spirit-warnings years ago. What was said then can be said now. Of course, it’s always easier to finger-point the faults of others yet miss our own. Major hazard guess: we’ve all been guilty.

Scripture motive warnings are timeless. It’s even possible to be right yet still be wrong if my heart-motive is wrong. Warning: these warnings never have an ‘expiration date.’

Motive check... C

- *Wilson Adams*

## ASSEMBLY TIMES

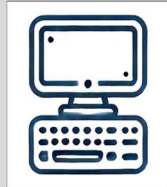
### Sunday

Morning Bible Class 9:30  
Morning Assembly 10:30  
Evening Assembly 5:00

### Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

## Find Us Online!



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& on Facebook

## DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

P.O. Box 447  
201 W. Chestnut Street  
Rogers, AR 72757  
479-636-3575



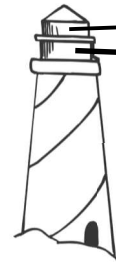
If you think Christians  
are judgmental, wait  
until you meet God.

## ELDERS:

Otis Hardin  
Perry Johnson  
Ken Parker  
Alan Revier  
GW Walsh

## DEACONS:

TJ Burleson  
Scott Hale  
Jason Hill  
Chris Johnson  
Brock McKeel  
Randy Potter  
Tim Roberts  
Randy Shell



# DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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ROGERS, ARKANSAS**

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## Which Flavor Are You?

Some folks choose a church like they choose ice cream – it's all about the taste. Some prefer chocolate, some prefer vanilla, and some prefer more exciting flavors, like tutti-frutti. And with a myriad of choices in churches, the flavor options are endless.

Of course, the problem here is easy to see: God has a taste preference, too! The question should never be, 'Which church do I like?' We should rather ask, 'Which church does God like?' After all, He designed it, He built it, and He bought it (Mt 16:18, Ac 20:28). And He never asked my opinion (or yours) – not even once.

When viewed from this angle, can we even call these organizations 'churches'? After all, Jesus only built one church (Mt 16:18, again). It might be more proper to speak of them as 'religious groups', or 'social clubs', or even 'ice cream parlors'. But a 'called out people belonging to God'? Not so much.

We know what Jesus does when He tastes something He doesn't like – and it's not very pretty (Re 3:16, read from the NKJV to get the full 'flavor'). So, think before deciding which 'flavor' of church to be a part of. If God isn't pleased, you should not be either.

- WKing

## FAMILY NEWS

### PRAYER LIST –

*Preachers we support:* Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

*Sick:* Swims, JMarshall, RStarr, MiBader, JTerrell, ACorder

*Shut-ins:* SCole, SWiese, VCarter, KHeilighenthal, TrDeen

*Military:* Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

**MONTHLY SINGING POSTPONED:** Due to scheduling issues, our first-of-month singing will be held next Sunday evening.

**REJOICE x 2!** We rejoice with the recent baptism of **Aidan Williams!** And we are happy to have **Janine Wedde** to join us as our newest member!